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SUBJECT Commendation of KIM Ch'aek by MAO Tse-tung

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25X1A

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1. On approximately 1 December MAO Tse-tung sent a personal message of congratulations to KIM Ch'aek, commander of the North Korean front-line forces, for his continuing fight and his successful maintenance of troop organization in retreat.* KIM was formerly a staff officer in the Chinese Communist army.
2. In early December KIM ranked high in the estimate of North Korean government leaders who were returning to the Pyongyang area.

25X1A

Comment. KIM retreated in late October with the main body of his remnant forces to the Kungang-san (128-07, 38-39) area, where he reorganized and concealed his forces during the UN push

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